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USTR Announces New Chief of Staff

WASHINGTON - United States Trade Representative Robert B. Zoellick today announced the appointment of a new Chief of Staff, Brian F. Gunderson. Mr. Gunderson most recently served as Chief of Staff to House Majority Leader Dick Armey (R-TX). Mr. Gunderson succeeds M.B. Oglesby, who has left to pursue other interests, including ensuring a good tomato crop at his house in Italy.

“I am very pleased that Brian has decided to join our team at USTR. He brings with him well-honed strategic, management, and legislative skills that will help us promote the President’s free trade agenda,” said Zoellick. “I also want to express my deep appreciation for ‘B’ Oglesby’s willingness to come in at the start of the Administration to share his experience and help get our new team up and running. We will miss his wisdom and spirit, and I wish him all the best.”

As Mr. Armey’s top aide from 2000 to the present, Mr. Gunderson helped manage the House Republican legislative agenda, including the historic passage in the House last December of Trade Promotion Authority. In addition, he played an important role in devising and implementing the legislative strategy to pass President Bush’s tax relief package in record time.

From 1985-2000, Mr. Gunderson held various positions in Mr. Armey’s office, including Administrative Assistant, Press Secretary, Legislative Director, and Legislative Assistant.

Mr. Gunderson served in the United States Marine Corps Reserve from 1982-1986 and graduated from Marquette University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in History in 1985.

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